



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:DV206-01
September 7, 2001

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office - Chris Smith
Legal Unit

Parks Division - Jeff Erickson
Lands - Darlene Edge

Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201

Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800

Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624

George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624

Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923

Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103

Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th Ave., Bozeman, 59715

Rep. Joey Jayne, 299 Lumpry Road, Arlee, 59821-9747

Rep John Brueggeman, 321 Lakeview Drive, Polson, 59860-9317

Sen. Mike Taylor, Box 152, Proctor, 59929-0152

Bob Raney, 212 S. 6th, Livingston, 59047

Lake County Commissioners, 106 Fourth Avenue East, Polson, 59860

Polson City Library, PO Box 820, Polson, 59860

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared for Big Arm State Park for the extension of the water line to service an additional portion of the park.

Questions and comments will be accepted until September 27, 2001. Please direct your questions or comments to Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager, FWP, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901, or e-mail to mawatkins@state.mt.us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Vincent
Daniel P. Vincent
Regional Supervisor
by Jeff Vastling

DV/nli
Enclosure

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BIG ARM STATE PARK WATER LINE EXTENTION DRAFT EA

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action:** The proposed action is to extend the water line at Big Arm State Park to service an additional portion of the park.
2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (Montana Annotated Code 23-1-101)
3. **Name of Project:** Water line extension at Big Arm State Park
4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency):**
5. **If Applicable:**

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: September 2001

Estimated Completion Date: November 2001

Current Status of Project Design(%complete): 100%
6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range, and township):** T24N, R21W, Lake County
7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	_____
residential	_____		
industrial	_____	(e) Productive:	
		irrigated cropland	_____
(b) Open space/Woodlands/Recreation	<1 a	dry cropland	_____
		forestry	_____
wetlands/riparian areas	_____	rangeland	_____
		other	_____

8. **Map/site plan:** attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by

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agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached: See Attachment A

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project Including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action:

The purpose of the proposed action is to extend the water line at Big Arm State Park 500' to provide service to a section of the park not currently serviced. This will provide FWP with the ability to water a section of the park that cannot be reached with the current water system. This action is not determined to be significant, in accordance with 12.8.601; therefore, HB495 does not apply.

10. Listing of Any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that Has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

None

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

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PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
► a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
► c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other (list)						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)						
f. Other						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

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3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)						
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)						
n. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

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4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	4e
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?						
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4e. Soil disturbance will provide a bed for the propagation of noxious weeds. Care will be taken to reseed the disturbed soil and incorporate the area into the weed management program for this park.

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)						
i. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)						
j. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- o Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

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B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			x		Yes	6a
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):
 6a. Increased noise will be heard during the construction period from heavy equipment. Therefore, this will be done during the off-season for park visitation.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

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8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

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10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
► e. Define projected revenue sources		None				
► f. Define projected maintenance costs.						
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

► 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
► c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

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12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u> Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^a	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^a	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)						
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
 - Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
 - ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

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PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)

- 1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider, and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

Two alternatives were considered:

Alternative One (the Preferred Alternative): Extend the water line at Big Arm State Park by 500' to serve a portion of the park not currently serviced with water.

Alternative Two: Do not extend the water line.

- 1. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**

Care will be taken to reseed disturbed area and monitor for noxious weed growth over the next three years. The area will be incorporated into the Big Arm Weed Management Area.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

4e. Soil disturbance will provide a bed for the propagation of noxious weeds. Care will be taken to reseed the disturbed soil and incorporate the area into the weed management program for this park.

6a. Increased noise will be heard during the construction period from heavy equipment. Therefore, this will be done during the off-season for park visitation.

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

- 1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:**

An EIS is not required as there are no significant environmental impacts for any alternatives. No Social concerns are anticipated regarding this action.

- 2. Describe the level of public involvement for this project, if any; and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

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This project will be posted in the legal notices. An open house will be held if public comment warrants that action.

3. Duration of comment period if any:

This project does not meet the criteria under HB 495; therefore, a shortened public comment period of 20 days will be held from Friday, September 7, through Thursday, September 27, 2001. If significant comment is received, the comment period will be extended by an additional 10 days.

4. Name, title, address, and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Marty Watkins
Regional Park Manager
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 751-4573
mawatkins@state.mt.us

Section 29 of Township 24N, Range 21W

